

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Glennmary

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**North side of U.S. Route 58; S side of Dan River; W of intersection  
of U.S. Routes 58 & 501.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Riverdale

☒ VICINITY OF

Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Halifax

CODE

083

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Robert F. Cage

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Post Office Box 63

CITY, TOWN

South Boston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24592

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Halifax County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Halifax

STATE

Virginia 24558

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

July 1978

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission - 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Glennmary is a Greek Revival-style residence erected between 1837 and 1840 by the Glenn family of Halifax County. Surrounded by a spacious estate at the end of a long drive off heavily traveled Route 58, the brick dwelling is a two-and-one-half-story, side-hall-plan house covered by a gable roof.

The three-bay (south) facade is dominated by a handsome, one-story pedimented Greek Doric portico set on a recently constructed brick podium. The portico shelters a rectangular transom-light entry which retains its original paneled door and is framed by a simple architrave. Fenestration consists of the original 9/9 hung-sash windows framed by simple wooden architraves. The original louvered shutters flank the windows on all elevations. The windows are capped by wooden lintels with corner blocks. Executed in very beautiful Flemish bond, the brickwork retains its painted joints and old red wash. A one-and-one-half-story, one-bay wing projects to the west of the facade. The wing's fenestration is similar to that found on the main house with the exception of 6/6 hung-sash dormer windows found on the north and south elevations.

The rear (north) elevation is similar to the south with the exclusion of the portico. The wing contains a rear entrance framed by simple wooden architrave trim. With the exception of a side entrance, the east elevation remains unpierced. A one-story porch, added at a later date, exists in a state of deterioration. Both main gables are in the form of Tuscan pediments with the cornices extending across the front and rear elevations.

The interior of Glennmary is noteworthy for its finely executed stair and woodwork. Dominating the hall is a single-run, open-well stair which ascends to the second floor. The stair features carved paneled spandrels, sawn-scroll brackets, rectangular balusters, and a finely turned newel post. The doorways in the hall and throughout the house have simple architrave trim. Both the first- and second-floor rooms contain highly stylized Greek Revival mantels. The mantels were derived from Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter, which was first published in Boston in 1830. Although lacking the frets, the first-floor parlor mantels would appear to be variations of Benjamin's "chimney-piece", plate 51. The mantel on the first floor of the wing is an exact copy of Benjamin's "chimney-piece", plate 49, while the one found on the second floor in the southeast chamber duplicates Benjamin's plate 50. The original paneled doors retain, in various states, their original graining.

Glennmary is fortunate in the preservation of a number of 19th-century frame outbuildings. The surviving structures include slave quarters, a log cabin, a smokehouse, and sheds. The estate had at one time been extensively landscaped, as evidenced by the original shrubs and trees which survive in an overgrown state.

RCC

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property consists of 52 acres and is a small portion of the original Glenn estate. It is drawn to include the drive, which terminates in an avenue of high boxwood. Outbuildings are included within the nominated area. The area includes the site of the former gardens, walks, and remnants of the orchards. The property is bounded on the south by Route 58 and on the east and west by parallel lines that follow the drive and include part of a contour line (350). It is bounded on the north by the same contour line that separates the land from the river basin and defines a natural plateau upon which the house sits.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1837 - 1840

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Dabney Cosby

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Glennmary, a Halifax County residence, stands as one of the more noteworthy expressions of Greek Revival architecture in Southside Virginia. Although built on a spacious country estate on the Dan River, the house resembles in its facade and plan the more urbane town houses found in Richmond and Petersburg. Erected by the Glenn family in 1837-1840, the house is a well-documented example of the work of Dabney Cosby, one of Thomas Jefferson's master builders at the University of Virginia.

The Glennmary estate was formerly the property of James Anderson Glenn, a very successful Halifax merchant of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. When Glenn died in 1812, his wife received a life interest in the 832½-acre tract, known as "Glenn's old store"; an adjoining 1000 acres was retained by her until her death in 1846. The remainder of Glenn's holdings was held in trust until 1823, when his children received their share of about 1330 acres. His son Archibald, the builder of Glennmary, inherited 203 3/4 acres on the Dan River plus an adjoining 80-acre tract. In 1826 when he was 21 years old and the sole surviving son, Archibald reassembled from other heirs 846½ acres of his father's former estate tract. By 1839 the tax books listed his holdings as 1016 3/4 acres located on the Dan River. This acreage comprised the estate on which Glenn built his residence, Glennmary.

According to the tax book of 1839, the Glenn property had a building value of \$2700 with the annotation "improvements increased." The tax book entry is corroborated by entries in Dabney Cosby's account book for 1837-1838, when Cosby listed the following work for Archibald Glenn: "To building house as pr. contract"; "To additional work done to wing of house"; "To building kitchen as pr. contract"; and, "Settled and delivered to Mr. A. Glenn's house this day and received his note payable on demand (\$633.75) for the balance." The tax book of 1840 shows an increase in building value to \$5080. This amount, which remained unchanged throughout Glenn's lifetime, reflects the value of the house upon completion. Dabney Cosby's receipt to Glenn, "By payment in full of all demands up to this date 15th December 1840," is the last entry to Glenn in his account book.

Dabney Cosby (1779-1862), the builder of Glennmary, is first recorded in an architectural capacity when he wrote Thomas Jefferson from Staunton on December 18, 1818, offering his services as a bricklayer and brickmaker. His letters of recommendation referred to him as a "gentleman", indicating his status in Staunton. In the spring of 1819, Cosby submitted his terms for making and laying bricks and subsequently worked on the University of Virginia. In 1828, the university having been completed, Cosby became a master builder. He erected and repaired houses, chimneys, stables, and courthouses in the counties of Buckingham, Goochland, Halifax, and Sussex. He eventually was assisted by his son, Dabney Minor Cosby, Jr. (1813-1898). Cosby's skill as a builder is evident in the fine quality design and workmanship of Glennmary. A notable characteristic of the house is its large scale and exceptionally large windows.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cosby, Dabney Minor. Account Book 1826-1854. MS at the Virginia Historical Society.  
Halifax County Deed Books 35, 36, 40, 42.  
Halifax County Land Tax Books 1807-1850.  
Halifax County Will Books 9, 10, 21.  
O'Neal, William B. "The Workmen at the University of Virginia, 1817-1826: With Notes and Documents." The Magazine of Albemarle History. vol. 17, 1958-1959.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 52 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME South Boston, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,7 6,8,4 7,1,0 4,0 6,1 3,0,0

B 1,7 6,8,4 9,4,0 4,0 6,1 3,2,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,7 6,8,4 8,0,0 4,0 6,0 5,4,0

D 1,7 6,8,4 6,1,0 4,0 6,0 5,5,0

E 1,7 6,8,4 3,6,0 4,0 6,1 2,8,0

F                  

G                  

H                  

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on N side of U.S. Route 58, 3500' E of intersection of said route with State Route 703; thence extending 1600' N, paralleling private drive to Glennmary, to edge of tree line; thence extending about 500' WNW, partially following tree line, to 350' contour line; thence following said contour (See Continuation Sheet #1)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

November 1978

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE NOV 21 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Glennmary, Halifax County, Virginia

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 10 PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

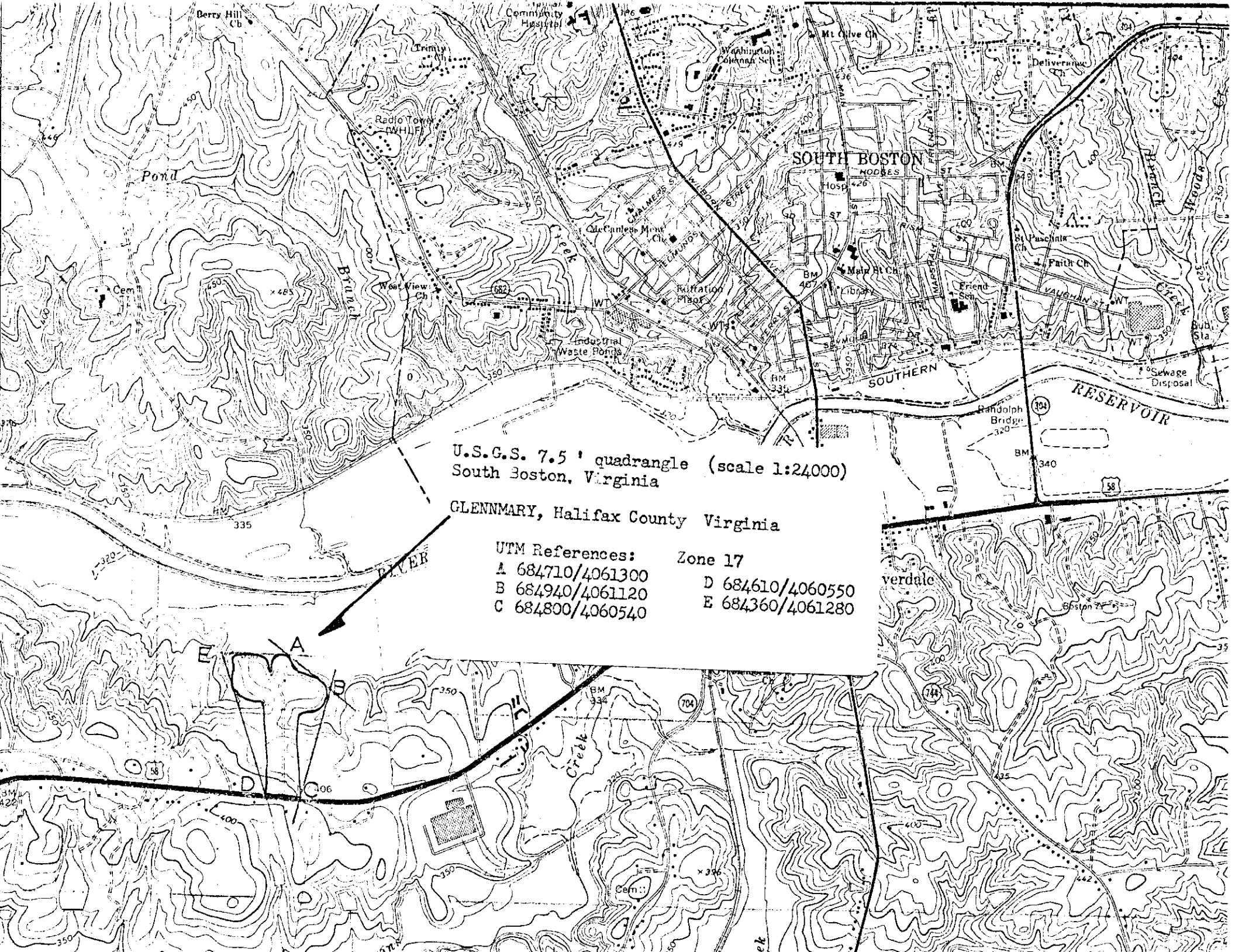
Although built on a sizeable country estate, Glennmary derives its prototype from the side-hall-plantown house rather than the more monumental plantation house. Indeed, the builder's sources of inspiration for the interior were the more urban-oriented pattern books of the time and included Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter (Boston, 1830) as a source for the mantels and Owen Biddle's The Young Carpenter's Assistant (Philadelphia, 1810) as inspiration for the stair. The University of Virginia's influence on Cosby is manifest by the sophistication of the brickwork and also in the exterior wood trim. The entrance is graced by a dwarf Greek Revival portico, and the architrave trim bears a Tuscan simplicity favored by Jefferson and used extensively throughout the University.

The property is owned by Robert F. Cage of South Boston who hopes to restore the house and grounds.

VDS/RCC

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

line N, E, S, SW, then S for a total of approximately 3800'; thence extending 1300' S to N side of U.S. Route 58; thence following said side of said route 600' W to point of origin.



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale 1:24000)  
South Boston, Virginia

GLENNMARY, Halifax County Virginia

UTM References:

A 684710/4061300

B 684940/4061120

C 684800/4060540

Zone 17

D 684610/4060550

E 684360/4061280